REMARKS

These comments are responsive to the final Office Action dated February 21, 2008, which rejected the previously pending claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Conley (US2002/0099904) in view of Chien et al. (US patent number 6,742,078). Although the previously pending claims are believed allowable for the reasons previously given, they are being cancelled in favor of new claims 44-50. Consequently, the present response is being filed with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE).

More specifically, newly added independent claim 44 is drawn to an aspect where, as noted in lines 10-13 of introductory paragraph [0027], "[r]ather than maintain a complete record of the linking of blocks into metablocks within the non-volatile memory, a 'standard' linking can be based on an algorithm implanted, for example, in the system's firmware, with only the deviations due to defects from this algorithm needing to be stored."

Claim 44 ends with the limitation of "storing a record of the updating of the first linking in the non-volatile memory, wherein the said record only includes deviations from the rule." It is noted that previously pending claim 3 included a related limitation, for which the Office Action cited Conley at paragraph [0066]. However, it is respectfully submitted that Conley does not disclose or suggest such a limitation, either in the cited location or elsewhere. Consequently, for at least this reason, it is respectfully submitted that newly added claims 44-50 are allowable.

Consequently, it is now believed that the present application is now in form for allowance, an early indication of which is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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